

❖ THE MASTERS VOICE ❖

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER - SAMSA

JULY / AUGUST 2005



6th WORLD MASTERS GAMES – 22 TO 31 JULY 2005 Report back from SAMSA's President

EDMONTON, CANADA – VENUE FOR THE WORLD MASTERS GAMES

The City of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada is one million people strong. A city of sky scrapers, wide streets, spacious parks, a river running through the heart of the city, top sport facilities (mostly indoors), with a mild summer climate that could change suddenly to strong cold winds and welcome summer showers.

The hospitality of the local people was overwhelming.

More than 21,000 athletes from 84 nations, together with 5,500 volunteers and 1,000 officials were all part of the exceptionally well-organised event.

All accredited athletes and companions enjoyed free transport on all buses and trains during the period of the games under the helpful guidance of the friendly drivers of which 50%

were women. Many buses are fitted with bicycle racks to assist the many local and visiting cyclists.

The opening ceremony, attended by over 30,000 people, was a spectacular gala event.

The full-page advert for the 2006 SA Masters Games was proudly displayed in more than 30,000 World Games Souvenir Programmes, financially assisted by Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, NMB Tourism and SAMSA. The 2006 SA Games flyers was distributed at the various venues and at the World Games Centre.

SOUTH AFRICAN MEDAL WINNERS

1. Squash

Women 45 – 49 “A”
Section – Christine
Strydom (Silver)
Men 45 – 49 “A” Section
– Malcolm McClarty
(Silver)

Men 65 – 69 “A” Section
– Desmond Sacco
(Bronze)

2. Baseball

Pretoria “Angels” – Silver

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS – “SPORT FOR LIFE”

1. Swimming

Games oldest participants - 94 year old Margo Bates from Queensland, Australia and 96 year old Jaring Timmerman from Winnipeg, Canada both swam in the 95 and over events. Between them they have won over the decades 250 medals and hold 30 World Records.

Many World Records were broken in all age categories.

2. Soccer

Biggest team sport at the Games with 2,600 competitors. Most entries were from women teams

3. Athletics

Biggest event with 3.050 competitors.

4. Diving

Triple gold medallist, 83 year-old René Puddifoot, a retired physician, from Great

Britain. Diving ages ranged from 25 to 80+ years.

5. Basketball (Women)

Two old global foes met again at registration after playing for many years against each other in the international professional league. Karla Karch, a 40 year old veteran of two Olympics from Canada and Irina Minkh, a 41 year old from Siberia, a bronze and gold Olympic medallist had many memories to share.

6. Tennis

70 year old Damir Novak, second best player at his age in the world. Novak was also a champion 3-metre diver, national basketball team player, gymnastic champion a decade ago and a prominent national ballet dancer for 36 years, who travelled the world and performed at the famed Kirov Ballet in St Petersburg, Russia. Novak, from Croatia, says “keepfit and keep playing!”

7. Cycling

Competitor Robert Bergan (80 years old), has been racing for 66 years. American Lydia Barter from New England, the defending World Masters Champion, in the women’s 55 to 59 age group, won a gold medal by racing in 56:26.

8. Rowing

51 year old, Aerial Gilbert from California, who was accidentally blinded 17 years ago, competed in various rowing events and is a member of the US National Adaptive Team. She says rowing is a good fit for a blind person, because rowers sit backwards anyway. During competition a second boat paces her as a guide.

9. Weightlifting

The only Games event with qualifying standards at the event, included in the Games was the official World Masters Weightlifting Championships. The sport is grouped first by age and then by body weight when participants weigh-in 2 hours before competing.

10. Basketball (Men)

The age category 45 to 49 was a feast to watch by all spectators. The standard of play amongst teams consisting of many ex-Olympians and international players was an inspiration to any younger Master.

11. Shooting

Many women participants in all shooting events. Eva Szabo, 58 year old world class Pistol Shooter says the “focus is in the brain.” Peta Stephen, 37, double medallist from Australia takes 200

shots per week in practice. Robert Mumby, 52 year old from Canada, takes 500 self-funded shots 3 to 5 times per week, “Shooting,” he says “teaches you a lot of discipline.”

12. Triathlon

77 year old Canadian, Doug Knowles, was the oldest of the 852 Masters competitors. He has been running for 59 years and competed in the triathlon event for 25 years.

The 21,000 competitors represented all age categories from 25 years old in swimming to the Grand Masters section – over ninety years.

Sport Code	Total Competitors
Athletics	3050
Badminton	616
Baseball	277
Basketball	1414
Beach Volleyball	1580
Canoe Kayak	542
Cycling	946
Diving	102
Golf	861
Ice Hockey	1770
Lawn Bowling	82 from 20 countries
Orienteering	993 from 20 countries
Rowing	1074 from 20 countries
Rugby	556
Shooting	200
Soccer	2600
Softball (Fast-pitch)	1259
Softball (Slow-pitch)	646

Sport Code	Total Competitors
Squash	383
Swimming	1411
Synchronized Swimming	180
Table Tennis	139
Tennis	544
Ten Pin Bowling	91
Triathlon	842
Indoor Volleyball	1580
Weightlifting	390

The World Masters event remains the biggest participating multi-sports event on earth.

The 2006 SOUTH AFRICAN MASTERS GAMES, on the doorstep of all masters athletes in the country, offers you a golden opportunity to become part of your own multi-sports event!

SPORT AND RECREATION SOUTH AFRICA

R30,000 Grant in Aid for Administration has been received with thanks from Sport and Recreation South Africa.

FINAL REMINDER

30 September 2005 is the closing date for Sport Codes confirming its participation in the 5th SA Masters Games from 27 April 2006 to 1 May 2006, Port

Elizabeth, NELSON MANDELA BAY.

PROMOTION : 2006 SA GAMES

Thousands of Games Info Flyers have been distributed.

Games Registration Forms are available and to be distributed during September.

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SASCOC PRESIDENTS MEETING

Was held on 20 August 2005 in Johannesburg, and SAMSA's President attended.

AGENDA:

- Proposed National Academy;
- Towards Equity and Excellence in Sport.

FORTHCOMING NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL MASTERS EVENTS

- World Rugby Legends Festival –

19 to 24 July 2006, Durban.

- Squash SA Masters Inter-provincial Tournament – 7 to 15 September 2005, Port Elizabeth
- Wrestling World Masters Championships – 1 to 4 September 2005, Teheran, Iran. South African World reigning champion, Dr Willem Putter, to defend his title. Johan Uys first participation in a World event.

GOLDEN OLDIES SPORTS FESTIVALS :

- Hockey – 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, 11 to 18 September 2005
- Cricket – Colombo, Sri Lanka, 23 to 30 April 2006
- Rugby – Wellington, New Zealand, 29 October to 5 November 2006
- Soccer – Rarotonga, Cook Islands 2006, date to be finalised
- Netball – Perth, Australia 2007 (date to be determined)